

REMARKS

The abstract has been amended to remove "means" language as required by the Examiner, and the specification has been amended to correct grammatical errors, employ more idiomatic English, and to insert section headings. Claim 5 has been amended to clarify the invention claimed. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Turning to the Examiner's objections to the abstract and specification, these have been amended as specified above. Thus, it is believed that the Examiner's objections have been overcome.

Turning to the rejection claims 5-8 under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by Metz et al., U.S. Patent 6,045,390, the Examiner's rejection is in error. Applicants' claim 5 teaches a plug-in connector module for use in a module mounting device of a plug-in connector casing. Nowhere does Metz et al. teach a module mounting device or a plug-in connector casing. Thus, Metz et al. cannot anticipate Applicants' claim 5 nor any claims dependent therefrom.

It is further noted that in Figs. 3 and 4 of the instant application, modules 3 are held in mounting device 40 that are in turn connected within casing 50. Nowhere is this structure described in Metz et al. Furthermore, nowhere does Metz conceive their connector for use in industrial employment with an IP 65 protection. Instead, Metz only contemplates a module for use in an office-like setting (abstract).

New claims 9-12 have been added to further scope the invention and are allowable for the same reasons above adduced relative to claims 5-8, as well as for their own additional limitations.

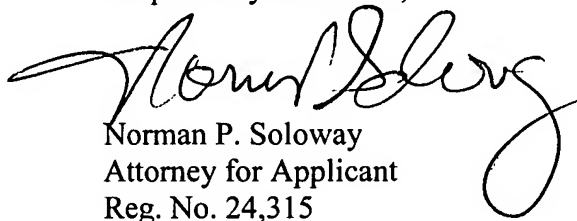
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Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 6, 2004, at Tucson, Arizona.

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